

The Old Hotels
of
Staten Island

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THE OLD HOTELS OF STATEN ISLAND.

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The preparation of such an article as this must necessarily cover a number of years, as the little scraps of history are picked up incidentally, during conversations with people who possess such fragments as, when all are put together and sifted, must make the story of by-gone days and events complete.

The true history of Richmond County is always in danger of mutilation. Many of its most important records were destroyed during the Revolution; others have been imperfectly made, and many an event of incalculable value to the historian lives only in tradition and story.

I have spared no effort to be truthful with the dates and locations of the houses named in this article. I have subjected them to a number of our older citizens, and am satisfied to let the article stand as a reliable link in the history of Richmond County.

It is generally believed that the first hotel erected on Staten Island stood on the shore near the site of the Pavilion Hotel, Richmond Terrace, New Brighton. There is a theory that it was erected and maintained by Kieft, the director of the Province of New Netherlands, who erected a still on Staten Island, somewhere in the vicinity of Brighton avenue and Jersey street, New Brighton. It was the first still erected in America. Kieft, according to history, "was an indiscrete and imprudent man, and eminently possessed of the Dutch attributes of obstinancy and self-will." It was he who provoked the first battle between the Indians and whites on this continent, as he wanted to punish the Indians for an alleged theft. There can be no doubt that the outrage which he and his men perpetrated upon the Indians of Staten Island, laid the foundation for the hatred for the white man which is now the "nat-

ural bent" of all the Indian tribes in America. The still, alluded to, was erected in 1640, and there is no doubt that the tavern was built very shortly afterward, and was probably the home of Kieft while on Staten Island. A description of the building says "it was a stone house of Dutch fashion." From this we assume that it was one-story and attic, with dormer windows in a long, sloping roof, and strongly resembled the other Colonial buildings still standing on the Island. "The windows on the ground floor," says the same description, "were small and secured with iron bars, so close together that it was impossible for a child to crawl between them." There was a boat-landing in front of the house, which was maintained up to the early part of the present century. During the Revolution the house was known as the King's Inn, and was occupied at various times by the British commander of the troops stationed at the entrance to the Kills. One night, while an officers' ball was in progress in it, a detachment of Continentals "set a trap" for the flashily dressed gentlemen who were participating in the pleasures of the occasion, and by securing the presence of one at a time, succeeded in capturing a number and carrying them off prisoners of war. A portion of the foundation of this house is still remembered by some of our older citizens.

The "Rose and Crown" stood at the head of New Dorp lane, a few feet back of the site of the hotel recently erected at that place. It was built by a Huguenot, one of the first settlers on Staten Island, in 1665. Several important treaties were here effected between the Provincial authorities and noted chiefs, and the Richmond County Courts were held in its parlor, at intervals, for many years. Sir William Howe occupied it as his headquarters on July 4th,

1776, and as he remained there for some time, it requires no effort on our part to picture many brilliant scenes beneath its roof. Howe was wealthy and fond of pleasure and show. He gave receptions there very frequently, and entertained such distinguished comrades in arms as Generals Clinton, Cornwallis, Percy, Pigot, Agnew, Erskine, Skinner, Monckton, Andre, Billopp and scores of others. It was in this house, too, that Sir William gave the memorable reception to Margaret Moncrieffe, who described the event very vividly in her "Memoirs." When Sir William was relieved of the command of the British forces in America, he was succeeded by Sir Henry Clinton, and he, too, made the "Rose and Crown" his headquarters. General Knyp-hausen afterward occupied it, when left with his Hessians to guard Staten Island. Its last "royal" occupant was Colonel Danforth, Assistant Commissary General of the British Army, upon whom devolved the responsibility of securing such property as the army had left behind when it evacuated the Island. Colonel Danforth returned to this country a few years afterward, and stopped for a long time in the old "Rose and Crown." In his "Journal" the Colonel portrayed the glories of "beautiful Staten Island." The last owner of the "Rose and Crown" was the late Leonard Parkinson. The building was demolished in 1856.

Cucklestowne Inn stood on the spot now occupied by the residence of Mr. Willis Barton, in Richmond Village—"Cucklestowne" being the name of the village up to its adoption as the county seat, in 1727. It was erected in 1670. Other than being one of the first buildings erected on Staten Island, no particular importance is attached to its history up to the commencement of the Revolution. During the week or so following the Declaration of Independence, the British army rested from its defeats, marches and voyages, as best it could, on Staten Island. It was within a few days after this event that General Cleveland, the Chief Engineer of the British Army, selected various points on the Island, on which to build the "redoubts" or forts. He was the first British officer to occupy the old Cucklestowne Inn, and he remained there while superintending the construction of Fort Richmond, which is still standing on the high hill-top back of the village. General Cleveland personally superintended the construction of each fort on the Island—about ten in all. Several other officers of high rank occupied this house at times; but the one most notorious of all was Lieutenant-Colonel Simcoe, of the "Queen's Rangers." He was, by nature and practice, fully able to sustain his reputation as the outlaw of the Revolution. Colonel

Simcoe and Major Andre were very intimate, and, while the latter was serving as a captain in the Twenty second Regiment of Foot, stationed at Richmond, both occupied rooms in this old house. Captain Andre, (afterwards Major), wrote his will in the Cucklestowne Inn and, there being no county government on Staten Island during the Revolution, he had the document recorded in the County Clerk's office in New York City. It was admitted to probate on the week following the execution of Major Andre as a spy. Colonel Simcoe, as was the custom of the day with educated people, kept a "journal" and some of his comments upon the action of Washington, written in the Cucklestowne Inn, are very ludicrous to the impartial reader of history. Colonel Simcoe petitioned the British commander for permission to take the "Queen's Rangers" and re-capture Andre, at all hazards! Indeed, one of the unaccountable secrets of that great event was that the British commander, (Clinton), for a reason that may never be known, treated the Andre affair with the utmost indifference throughout, and the government for which he gave his life did little more. Cucklestowne Inn was demolished in 1823.

The Old House by the Mill, at Green Ridge, was erected by one of the early Waldensian settlers. The exact date is not known; but from an old document describing the early homes of this vicinity, it is safe to assume that it was built about 1685—probably earlier. It was originally partially surrounded by a high embankment, or fort, as a protection from Indians and pirates, as both, in those old days, used to make incursions up the Fresh Kill Creek. At the time of the erection of this building, the neighborhood was known as Kleine Kill, (meaning Little River). A century later it was called Marshland; but about thirty five years ago, it was changed to Green Ridge. The house became a hotel at a comparatively recent date.

Purdy's Hotel, at Seguine's Point, Prince's Bay, is one of the oldest buildings on Staten Island. There is substantial reason to believe that it was erected as far back as 1690, and was the home of one of the original Huguenots that settled on Staten Island. It belonged to the well-known Seguine estate, and by many residing here to-day is confounded with the original Seguine homestead. I find indisputable proof of this error in the Richmond County *Free Press* of 1835, which gives an account of the burning of the old Seguine homestead, and adds that "the building was totally destroyed." There was a military out-post at Seguine's Point during the Revolution, and Mr. Purdy's house was occupied as headquarters for a time by the British General, Vaughan. There was a

spirited skirmish between the Continentals and the British, and Colonel Illing, of Sir William Howe's staff, who was bearing a message to General Vaughan from the commander-in-chief, was fatally wounded and died in this house. Colonel Illing belonged to a wealthy English family. His remains, which were buried near the old house, were exhumed almost immediately after the declaration of peace, and carried back to his native land. The quaint old place has been the property of Mr. Purdy for several years, and is in a remarkably good state of preservation.

The Ferry Tavern was located on the bluff, near the terminus of the Amboy road, Manor of Bentley, now Tottenville, on the present site of Captain C. C. Ellis's pavilion. A ferry was established at that point as far back as 1650, by the Raritan Indians, who were on friendly terms with the Dutch. Shortly after that period it was found necessary to have "a place for protection of ye passengers in waiting," and a small log cabin was built. During the outbreaks of the Indians the building was repeatedly destroyed. The three generations of Billopps which lived in the Manor of Bentley, maintained this ferry. Thomas Farmar Billopp, who stood at the head of the second generation, caused to be built the little building, (which is still remembered by many of our people as the Ferry Tavern), about 1740. It was a part of the property confiscated by the Government, belonging to Colonel Christopher Billopp, at the close of the Revolution. At one time it was the only public house within several miles of Billopp's Point. Captain Delotz, a Hessian soldier, kept it for a time after peace was declared, and it was a rendezvous for many years for his old companions in arms, who had left the English service. Nothing more is known of the house until 1825, when John Fountain became its manager. He continued with it until late in the thirties. William Coddington, of Woodbridge, was its next proprietor. He was the largest man in this part of the country, and it was only with a great effort that he could move about. Its last proprietor as a public house was Henry Biddle. It was for several years the club house of the "Clever Fellows," of New York City, an appendage of Tammany Hall, and in a very mysterious manner, after a night's skylark, in 1866, the old house was burned to the ground.

The Bull's Head Tavern, a long, low, shingle sided building, stood near the spot on which the blacksmith shop of that little hamlet now stands. It was first built in 1741, and was enlarged twice before the Revolution, when it became famous as the headquarters of the Tories for this part of the country. A large sign used to swing in front of the house, upon which was painted

the head of a ferocious bull. The house was managed during the Revolution by one of the Hatfields and a notorious criminal named Bartley. Hatfield was a relative to the leader of the Tory gang, which murdered, robbed and plundered everybody that happened to be in the way. It is no exaggeration to claim that at least a dozen murders were committed in the old Bull's Head Tavern by the Hatfield gang. According to tradition the history of each murder or robbery was written on the board partitions of the dingy bar-room, and orgies that would put to shame the most fiendish of Indians were held therein. Every device imaginable was resorted to to entice unsuspecting people into the house, and it generally depended upon their skill and courage to get out alive. The stories of the depredations committed by the Hatfields in this old house sound more like fiction than truth. Several times the people of the Island attempted, in a quiet manner, to burn the house to the ground; but the flames were extinguished as often as the torch was applied. On the day the British left Staten Island, the climate became very warm for the Hatfields, and they moved around cautiously for a long time. Several of the gang left the Island; but enough remained to keep up the family name in Northfield, where it may be traced to this day. It is said that in one of the celebrations of the anti-royal element on the Island, there was an attempt to burn the Bull's Head Tavern; but the flames were again extinguished. Its charred timbers were replaced by fresh ones cut from the woods near-by, and it was re-opened by one Lynch, who kept it for a time. During the days of coaching it became very popular with people travelling between New York and Philadelphia, as it was a "relay station" where the horses were exchanged and where passengers got sumptuous "meals at all hours." People from all over the country made special trips to the old house, just to see the "Tory headquarters" and to listen to the horrible stories that made up its eventful history. It was later on the residence of Judge Garret-on, the grandfather of Mr. John H. Garretson, of Green Ridge. Few of the people now living on Staten Island ever saw the old Bull's Head Tavern, for it crumbled into dust many years ago.

The Black Horse Tavern, at New Dorp, was built in 1754, and was known as the "Wayside Rest" until 1776, when it was occupied by members of the staff of Sir William Howe. One of those gentlemen, a Lieutenant-Colonel, and "my very dear friend Benton," as Sir William called him, owned a handsome black charger, which was generally believed to be the fastest running horse in the British army. He

won scores of races on old New Dorp lane. One day there was to be a general review of the army at New Dorp, on the arrival of Lord Howe, Sir William's brother, and Colonel Benton mounted his handsome horse preparatory to escorting Sir William. Immediately after mounting, the horse took fright and ran away. A high rock stood a short distance from the hotel, against which the horse dashed and instantly killed both the rider and itself. Fellow staff-officers who witnessed the accident, decided at that instant to change the name of the house to the "Black Horse Tavern." A sign, bearing the picture of a black horse, was painted by a British soldier and was placed in front of the house. It was lost for many years; but it is now in its original position. It was at this house that Hatfield, the Tory leader, used to report his depredations and receive his instructions and rewards. It remained a public-house until some time after the "late war." About ten years ago a gentlemen from New York purchased the property and remodeled it for a private residence. A year or so later it was purchased by Mr. Patrick Curry, who enlarged it and opened its doors once more to the public. It is still in Mr. Curry's hands.

Bennett's Tavern was erected in 1768, and stood where Mr. Greenwald's store is located, on the corner of Richmond Terrace and Richmond avenue, Port Richmond. Little is known of its early history. Its last proprietor was Captain John Bennett, who managed it for many years. It was demolished about twenty-five years ago. I have been informed that the first Sunday-school organized in this country met on this spot under the management of the Dutch settlers.

One of the oldest buildings on the North Shore was the little stone tavern that stood about where Mr. William C. Van Clief's lumber yard is located, at Port Richmond. It stood long before the Revolution, and was demolished in 1855, when the late John H. Van Clief purchased the property from Commodore Vanderbilt. The Steamboat Hotel, built about 1840, and located a few yards east of the former, became its successor. Both were, "in their day," headquarters for boatmen.

"The Stone Jug," as the old Neville mansion near Sailors' Snug Harbor, is facetiously called, was, until 1882, a private residence, and was one of the most homelike places on the North Shore. According to statements made to the writer by old citizens, this house was erected about 1770. It was a farm house later and belonged to Jacob Tysen, County Judge, the farm containing all the land now included in the property of Sailors' Snug Harbor and extending almost to "Brighton Corner." The house, and the beautiful lawn in front, dotted with rare flowers and studded with majestic poplars, used to be the pride of the venerable Captain John Neville's heart. He was a retired officer of the American navy. The house has been the scene of many a gay reception, given in honor of distinguished members of the navies of our own and other countries. To one who reveres the links that bind the dim past to the busy present, there arises a regret that

the past and present of this old house are so far different.

The Union Hotel, at Tottenville, was for the better part of a century a farm-house on the Johnson estate, and was but a story-and-a-half high. It was first erected in 1784. Abram Johnson was its last occupant before it became a public-house. The former parlor of the house is now the large, low-ceiled bar-room, and it was in this very room that Commodore Vanderbilt was married to Miss Sophia Johnson in December, 1813. It was her home. Captain Abram Latourette purchased the property from Abram Johnson in 1865, and added several stories to the building, and then opened its doors to the public. It has changed managers many times since; but it is still the property of Captain Latourette.

The Red Horse Tavern was the name of a small public house that stood near Stony Brook, about a quarter of a mile from the Black Horse, during and for many years after the Revolution. Like almost all of its Colonial companions it was permitted to crumble to the ground. There are a few old citizens of the Island who remember its ruins.

The long, low building standing near the foot of Rossville avenue, (originally Ferry road, and for many years known as Shea's lane) in the village of Rossville, was standing long before this century was ushered in. There is no question that it was built before the Revolution. When this century was "in its teens" it was the only tavern in the vicinity, and was kept by Mr. Oakley, father of ex-Supervisor Jesse Oakley, who resides near it at the present time. The house has been changed a number of times from hotel to private residence, and is now occupied as the latter by Mr. Thomas Vaughan. Many interesting incidents have occurred in it, principally of a political nature. The boyhood days of Mr. James A. Bradley, the founder of Asbury Park, were spent with his father and mother in this old house, while "the boy Jimmy," as some old residents still call him, went to the little country school over at Woodrow.

The Washington Hotel, in Richmond, for nearly fifty years under the management of the late Michael Curry, was originally a small private dwelling. It was enlarged from time to time, and was finally converted into a hotel, with a public hall and ball-room. A portion of the building was erected as far back in 1790. It is now rapidly going to decay. No even of any particular importance transpired here; but it was the scene of many a happy gathering of the young men and women of the Island for generations.

The Swan Hotel is the venerable building on Richmond Terrace, West New Brighton, for many years the residence of Mr. C. M. Pine. It originally stood on the adjoining ground now occupied by the brick building lately used by Messrs. C. M. Pine & Son. It was erected about 1792. An interesting event occurred in this old house on July 4th, 1825, when the colored people of Staten Island, together with their friends from Long Island and New Jersey, held a grand celebration in it, in honor of the abolition of slavery in New York State. All the officials of Richmond County were entertained by the colored people in high style. The negroes had a three-days' celebration, practically, for they commenced on the 3d to gather to the scene, and remained until the 5th. The embankment along the Kilis, opposite the Swan Hotel, was covered with cedar trees, and it was there that a great majority of the ex-slaves, hundreds in number, took up their abode during their stay. There is living on the Island but one colored person who was present at the celebration in the character of an emancipated slave. Mr. Michael Tynan, the father of Mrs. John T. Barrett, was the last manager of the Swan Hotel as a public resort.

It is now the property of Mr. James Wheeler.

The Fountain House, on Richmond Terrace, West New Brighton, was erected near the close of the last century, and for many years was known as the Shakespeare Hotel. It was for half a century the most popular resort on Staten Island for balls, entertainments and public meetings. The first invitation ball ever given on Staten Island was in this old house early in "the forties," and such an innovation was it upon the established customs of the time that the Tompkins Guards, the military company giving the ball, had to drive out riotous intruders, at the point of the bayonet, those who felt the slight at not being invited. The bitterness engendered on that occasion has, in several instances, passed down to a third generation. The Fountain House ceased to be a hotel in 1859, and is now the property of Mr. Frank W. Tompkins. Wendell Phillips, accompanied by George William Curtis, delivered one of his famous abolition speeches on the steps of this house.

The Cliff House, a few hundred yards east of Fort Wadsworth, was standing in 1794; but the time of its erection is unknown. Richard Silva kept the house at the commencement of this century, and continued with it for about twenty-five years. The wife of the late venerable Captain James Stillwell of the Staten Island ferry, was born in this house in 1807. She was the daughter of Mr. Silva. The house was then known as Silva's Cliff Inn. The military post now known as Fort Wadsworth was State property during the War of 1812, and the little fort was commanded by Captain Ephraim Clark, father of the late Dr. Ephraim Clark, of New Dorp. Captain Clark and a detachment of his troops guarded the house for several weeks, to prevent its destruction, as British sailors made two or three attempts during the war to destroy it by fire. Captain Clark's home was near Rahway, N. J., and about two-thirds of his men came from that vicinity; the remainder were Staten Islanders. The Captain and his wife were buried in the graveyard of the Port Richmond Reformed Church. The Cliff House was for many years of late occupied by a private German Club, under the management of Mr. Joseph Kost. It is now a summer boarding house.

The Port Richmond Hotel was built about 1807, and was the private residence of Judge David Mersereau. It stands on the site of the home of the notorious Decker, who took an active interest in the welfare of the British during the Revolution, and acted as a guide to them on various occasions. Decker's house was destroyed by fire during a raid by General Sullivan. A small fort was erected on its site. At the time the Mersereau house was built it was considered the handsomest residence on the Island. A great deal of hand-carved woodwork ornaments the interior. The old-fashioned hall, and large, square rooms remind one of the many gay scenes that have occurred there in days of yore. There was a lawn in front of the building which extended to within a few feet of the (present) opposite sidewalk, and many people residing in Port Richmond to-day can recall two large willow trees that stood in front, about where the middle of the street is now located. The Mersereau farm, upon which this house stood, consisted of that portion of Port Richmond bounded by Richmond avenue, the Shore road and Palmer's run, south to the Post farm—all the streets between the meadows and old "Church road" being cut through it. About 1828, the house was sold and converted into the Port Richmond Hotel, and a few years later its name was changed to the Continental Hotel. Recently it was changed again to the St. James. It was in this house that Aaron Burr spent nearly the whole of the closing year of his life, and many distinguished people called there during that time. On June

17th, 1836, the anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill, which the company always celebrated, the Tompkins Guards, of West New Brighton, under command of Captain John Laforge, paraded along the North Shore, and had their annual dinner at the Continental Hotel. On behalf of the company, Captain Laforge invited Colonel Burr to dine with it; but, as he was too feeble to attend, he declined, and invited the officers up to see him. They accepted the invitation and had a very enjoyable time. The visitors were Captain John Laforge, Lieutenant D. V. N. Mersereau, Ensign Smith B. Freeman, and Orderly Sergeant Richard Christopher. The latter afterward became captain and is still living in West Brighton. It was in this house, in the room on the northeast corner of the second floor, that Aaron Burr died, on the 14th of September, 1836. The house is still open to the public.

Nautilus Hall, Tompkinsville, was built by James Guyon, father-in-law of the late Dr. Ephraim Clark, of New Dorp, (grandfather of Dr. James G. Clark, of West New Brighton), in 1808. It very soon became a political resort. New York politicians held brief outings there for the sake of talking over matters at the distant Metropolis. It was the Democratic centre of the Island for many years. A grand reception was given to Lafayette in this house, in 1825, on the occasion of his last visit to America, and many distinguished heroes of the Revolution, and the War of 1812 were present. Kossuth was also entertained here in style. He made an eloquent address on its piazza. Garibaldi visited it frequently, while residing on Staten Island. For the better part of a century its beautiful lawn and fine old well were great attractions for people from near and far. Both were destroyed by the building of the Rapid Transit Railroad. The house was enlarged by Mr. Frank Jones in 1855. It is now controlled by Mr. Henry Burrows, who secured it in 1885.

Bodine's Hotel, at Castleton Corners, (or Four Corners, as the place used to be called), was originally built in 1815. In the days of stage coaches it did its share of entertaining the traveling public. The well, which still stands in the street nearly in front of this house, and which is over a century old, made this a popular stopping place in those old days. For generations man and beast delighted in the sparkling beverage which it has never failed to provide. In the old training days, "before the late war," this house was the headquarters of the Castleton contingent. It was purchased several years since by Mr. Thomas Keene, the celebrated actor, and it is there that his family resides the year round, and where Mr. Keene himself rests from his labors when off the stage.

The Pavilion, on Mount Tompkins, (or, as the present generation calls it, Pavilion Hill), at Tompkinsville, was a popular resort as far back as 1815. It was a delightful place in summer. Staten Islanders used to hold entertainments up there for the benefit of churches and military organizations, and it was the mecca for New York excursionists. In the early part of its existence it was a favorite place at which to celebrate the Fourth of July. Old citizens of the Island inform me that they remember having heard addresses there by Martin Van Buren, William H. Seward, Daniel D. Tompkins, Governor Ogden and William H. Pennington. Many years ago the Pavilion, a long, low, wooden structure, caught fire in the night and burned to the ground. It was re-built, and in the course of time lost its popularity with the better class of people, and finally became a questionable resort. Prize fights, gambling scenes, and similar events marked its career. Again it caught fire and burned to the ground. Time has completely obliterated the last vestige of its existence. The view from the hill is

one of the most fascinating within the suburbs of the Metropolis.

The Rossville Hotel was built in 1825, by John Eddy and Robert Seguire. It was the property of Joseph Seguire, uncle of the late Henry Stewart Seguire. Its first manager was Israel Oakley, who was Sheriff of Richmond County in 1834; Member of Assembly in 1838—'39-'41; Supervisor for Westfield in 1840 and 1850, and held various other positions of trust. He was a Whig. For many years before the hotel was built the location was known as "The Blazing Star Landing," and the house took its name from the place. When, in 1836, Colonel Ross built his "Castle," (now the residence of Dr. Lyon), the name of the place was changed to Rossville; but the old Blazing Star Hotel remained unchanged for a generation. Prior to the building of the Staten Island Railroad, Rossville was one of the most important steamboat landings on the Island, and, consequently the old Blazing Star Hotel shared its importance. It was one of the "voting places" in the times when the ballot-box was kept open for three days, and a story is told of a general fracas taking place here between the adherents of Andrew Jackson and John Quincy Adams on the first election day of "Old Hickory." A portion of the building is still occupied as a hotel, and the post-office and village store are in the remainder. It belongs to the estate of the late Henry Stewart Seguire.

Union Hotel, Richmond, was erected in 1830, and stood on the lot adjoining the Old Red Jail. It was for many years a private residence, and was converted into a hotel about 1842, by John Fountain; but ceased to be used as such more than twenty years ago, when it again became a private residence. A portion of it was occupied for a time by the King's Daughters, where they had their reading room and held their meetings. It was destroyed by fire in 1892.

The Commercial Hotel, at Tompkinsville, was established in "the twenties." In March, 1830, it is advertised in the *Richmond County Republican* as follows: "To Let—The commodious and convenient establishment known as the Commercial Hotel, situated in the village of Tompkinsville, about two minutes' walk from the steamboat landing. The house is three stories high and in good repair, with double piazza, &c. Richard Harcourt, near the premises."

The Union Garden was located at Tompkinsville, and was established in 1820. The *Republican*, of September 11th, 1830, advertises it as follows: "The elegance of the location of this establishment as respects elevation, romantic scenery and extent of ground, now rendered more beautiful by its late and extensive improvements, together with the advantages afforded by its proximity to the Quarantine wharf, it being situated but a pleasant promenade south of the same, now offers to parties or individuals, either public or private, military or civil, all those necessary advantages; and from the variety and quality of his dishes, wines, liquors, ice creams, &c., those choice luxuries that persons wishing to retire from the fatigues of labor, the noise of the crowd, or the tiresome confinement that a voyage at sea may cause, can be had in as good style as they may wish." J. D. Crew was the proprietor. I am informed that this "Garden" was located near the old Commodore Vanderbilt residence, on Bay street, on the hill-top that has since disappeared before the march of progress.

The Bloomingview Hotel was located on the Amboy road, a short distance north of the Prince's Bay railroad station. It was erected in 1821, and was once a popular resort with mail coach travelers and sportsmen from all over the country. It ceased to be a hotel many years since, and after comparative uselessness for a long period, was finally purchased by Mr. William

H. Starin, and at great expense fitted up for his private residence. It is still Mr. Starin's home.

Richmond County Hall stood in the village of Richmond, on the site of the building now occupied by the King's Daughters. It was erected by a company of county capitalists in 1822, and was the political, business, sporting and social headquarters for nearly half a century. Application was made to the Legislature in 1825 for an act to incorporate the Richmond County Hall Company, with a capital stock of \$10,000. This hotel had a national reputation, and many prominent people were entertained beneath its roof. A public hall was attached to it in which the political conventions of the Democrats, Federalists, Whigs, Know-Nothings, and Republicans were held. Congressman Obidiah Bowne, at one time the most influential citizen of this district, committed suicide in this house. William H. Vanderbilt was an habitue of it for many years, and was a member of a club called "The Owls," which held all-night sessions there. The last Whig convention held in Richmond County was at this house, and Mr. Vanderbilt was its chairman. At that time he resided on New Dorp lane. It was a favorite resort of the old Commodore, too, at one time. Richmond County Hall closed its doors as a hotel several years since. O. P. Hodge was its last proprietor. It was occupied privately for a brief period. It had crumbled into a complete wreck when, two years ago, it was totally demolished. Richmond County Hall will be a familiar byword to the people of Staten Island for many years to come.

The Patten House, New Dorp was for many years one of the main hotels of Staten Island. It was the military headquarters of the division in which Richmond County was located, and also of the 116th Regiment, N. Y. State Militia, which was composed exclusively of Staten Islanders. Col. Patten, a Southern planter, who had managed the old Merchants' Hotel, on Cortlandt street, New York City, was its first owner. It was built by Lawrence Hillyer, of New Springville, in 1837. Scarcely an issue of the old county papers appeared without some allusion to the Patten House. Public meetings, balls, courts martial, officers' councils, and kindred events were constantly going on. Sporting men sought it, too. It witnessed many changes in time. Its last manager was Colonel Lux, commander of the Eleventh Regiment, N. G. S. N. Y., and its doors were closed to the public in a few weeks after his death in 1882. Shortly after that it was purchased by Father McGlynn and fitted up for a home-school for homeless children. It continued as such until Father McGlynn had trouble with the Pope, and it was again made vacant.

The Pavilion Hotel, of New Brighton, has long been one of the most fashionable summer resorts of the country, and is known the land over. The central part of the original building was first projected as the private residence of Thomas E. Davis, Esq., about the year 1828, but on its being converted into a hotel about 1832, "an immense saloon was erected in the rear and two wings were added, each of which," says an old paper, "is considerably larger than the original building." The main building was originally two stories in height. In 1837, we read that "the colonnade in front of the building affords a promenade more than two hundred feet in length. The saloon is 80 by 75 feet, with a large dome and pendant chandeliers, suspended by a multitude of chaste Corinthian pillars. A covered promenade of the same length as the colonnade connects the three divisions of the pile, and presents comforts of the dry pave at all seasons. * * * All the rooms in the house have elegant Italian marble mantles, and are furnished in a degree of elegance and luxury rarely equaled by the largest hotels of the cities." Mr. Milford was proprietor of the Pavilion at that time. It has witnessed many changes since. In 1884, the original centre

building was torn down, and the present (centre) edifice erected. For many years "before the war" the Pavilion was liberally patronized by wealthy Southerners. Its old registers contain such names as General Winfield Scott, Henry Clay, General Santa Anna, Martin Van Buren, C. L. Vallandigham, John C. Breckenridge, Horatio Seymour, Jennie Lind, Mile, Patti, Signor Brignoli, and scores of others equally prominent. Mr. Adolph E. Dick is the present proprietor of the Pavilion, and his splendid reputation enables the house to retain its well-earned popularity.

The Old Track House was originally a farmhouse, and stood on the fair grounds, when the Agricultural Society was organized, near the beach, foot of New Dorp lane, in 1828. It was a resort for horsemen for several years, as some of the best horses in the country were speeded on the track at that place. Its popularity did not wane when the Agricultural Society moved to its new quarters between the railroad station and the Patten House. Gunners patronized the Old Track House as long as it stood, for it was located in a pleasant, out-of-the-way place, and was very inviting. James (Gordon) Bennett, Jr., used to enjoy himself very much there. He was an expert marksman, and he used to enter into contests with the best that came. He left thousands of dollars in that house. The Track House burned down many years ago. The land on which it stood is a part of the old homestead farm of William H. Vanderbilt, and is now owned by his youngest son, George W.

The Old Club House, on Clark avenue, near Court House station, was the first independent club-house established on Staten Island, so far as the writer is aware. The club was organized in 1828, and the house erected shortly afterward. Among the members of the club were Dr. Doane, Health Officer of the Port; Dr. John T. Harrison, who also held the same office and represented this county in the Legislature; Commodore Vanderbilt, Dr. Ephraim Clark, Colonel Richard Conners, Minthorne Tompkins, and many others whose names have passed into oblivion. When the club was disbanded, many years ago, the house became a hotel; but was used as such for only a short time. It was a private residence until about six years ago, when it was enlarged and converted into a hotel again.

The Quarantine Hotel was located near the steamboat landing, at Tompkinsville, and was established in 1829 by John V. Fountain. Later it was managed by S. W. Jennings. Its career closed with the burning of the Quarantine hospital.

The Planters' Hotel, on Bay street, Tompkinsville, a portion of which is now occupied by Mr. Loeffler, the photographer, was for many years one of the most aristocratic resorts of Staten Island. It was built by a Southerner, in 1829, and patronized almost exclusively by wealthy Southerners for many years. Many of the distinguished people of the South have been entertained there, among whom were John C. Calhoun, Jefferson Davis and Wade Hampton. After it ceased to be a hotel it was converted into a boys' academy.

The old-fashioned brick building standing on the north side of the railroad track, by the Port Richmond station, was erected in 1830, by Judge Mersereau, who sold it to his brother-in-law, the Rev. Peter J. Van Pelt, and it consequently became the parsonage of the Dutch Reformed Church. Some time after the death of Dr. Van Pelt it was sold, and it remained a private residence until the opening of the Rapid Transit Railroad at that point. It was then converted into a hotel.

Belmont Hall, New Brighton, was erected in 1832, and was the private residence of Mr. Lawrence, who conducted a distillery nearly opposite on the bank of the river. After a few years it was sold and enlarged, and soon became one of the most popular and successful private military academies in the country. Major Duff, who was its principal, was a graduate of

the West Point Military Academy, and had attained his title in the regular army. He was appointed colonel of a New York regiment, at the commencement of the Mexican War. He was an efficient officer, and distinguished himself in a number of battles. He became a victim to yellow fever, and he slept in his grave in the land of the Montezumas before victory was proclaimed. Among the graduates from this military academy were Fred. Barclay, son of the English Consul; Major Dennison, who distinguished himself while serving in Duryea's Zouaves, during the Southern Rebellion; Mr. John Pendleton, now residing in New Brighton, and a score of others whose names are familiar throughout the country. Belmont Hall, upon the death of Colonel Duff, at once became a hotel, and it has remained so ever since. For many years it has been a temperance house. Three churches have been organized in its parlor.

The Dock Hotel was built at New Brighton in 1834, and was managed by Thomas Carey. A portion of the building is still standing, and is now used by Messrs. James Crabtree & Son, coal dealers. The ferryboats "Sylph" and "Staten Islander" made two trips a day to and from New York City, and landed at the door of this house. It was the rendezvous of the Castleton politicians. When the steamboat landing was transferred to the foot of Jersey street, the Dock Hotel ceased to be a public house.

The Windsor Hotel, at New Brighton, was originally the residence of Mr. Wilkinson, of the firm of Crabtree & Wilkinson, silk dyers at New Brighton. It was the property of the New Brighton Land Association. The house was erected in 1835. In 1845, Mr. Wilkinson died, and it was some time afterward enlarged and converted into a hotel. It has had many managers. Two years since its doors were closed to the public. This house was known as the Mansion for a long time, and "in its day" was quite popular.

St. Mark's Hotel stood where the magnificent Hotel Castleton now stands, on the heights of New Brighton. The "Marble House," which formed a part of the old structure, was built by Gilbert L. Thompson, a son-in-law of Governor Tompkins, in 1825. It was Gilbert Thompson who aided Santa Anna to escape from Mexico, in 1848, and the fallen emperor was here entertained. The "Marble House" was purchased by August Belmont, and the noted banker and his family resided there for a number of years. When it was converted into a hotel a large addition was built to it. It was a very popular summer resort for many years, and it numbered among its guests some distinguished people. St. Mark's hotel was demolished in 1889, and the Hotel Castleton erected in its place.

The Castleton House is the square, frame building standing on Broadway, West New Brighton, opposite the public school. It was built by Capt. John Laforge in 1837. Captain Laforge commanded the Tompkins Guards, and the house was more or less a military centre for the North Shore. He was also a foreman of the Old Staten Island Dyeing Establishment. The house has long been occupied as a tenement.

The large, square building standing near the head of Main street, in Tottenville, was built by the late Israel Butler, in 1850, and a select school was conducted in it for several years. Then it was rented by "Uncle" Joseph and "Aunt" Sally Christopher, (who were well known in connection with old Richmond County Hall), and they managed it some time as a temperance house. But after a while it became a full-fledged tavern. For the past twenty years it has been a private residence.

More than a score of other hotels I have learned about, while gathering material for this article, that have long since faded from the sight and mind of the busy public; but as I could learn nothing of special interest in their history, have deemed it best to pass them by. And I have also omitted many interesting incidents in connection with those hotels of which I have written, fearing that I may have already trespassed upon the patience of those who are to read or listen to these stories of the past.

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